

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1917

Introduced by Assembly Member Obernolte

February 11, 2016

An act to amend Sections 4980.74, 4980.78, 4980.79, 4999.32, 4999.33, 4999.61, 4999.62, and 4999.63 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to mental health professionals.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1917, as introduced, Obernolte. Mental health care professionals: qualifications.

(1) Under existing law, the Board of Behavioral Sciences licenses and regulates marriage and family therapists and professional clinical counselors. Existing law requires the board to accept specified education an applicant gained while the applicant resided outside of California as satisfying certain educational requirements for licensure as a marriage therapist or as a professional clinical counselor.

This bill would, instead, require the board to accept specified education an applicant gained from an out-of-state school.

(2) Existing law requires an applicant seeking licensure as a professional clinical counselor or a marriage and family therapist to possess a degree that contains a practicum coursework requirement that may be satisfied by conducting face-to-face counseling.

This bill would specify that the face-to-face counseling requirement of the practicum coursework be face-to-face counseling of individuals, couples, families, or groups. This bill would require that this counseling be supervised for applicants seeking licensure as a professional clinical counselor.

(3) Existing law requires, with specified exceptions, an applicant seeking licensure as a professional clinical counselor to pass a licensure examination. Existing law requires these applicants to meet specified qualifications to be eligible to take the licensure examination, including possessing a degree that is counseling or psychotherapy in content, and that contains specified coursework. Existing law requires this degree to include supervised practicum or field study experience, as specified.

This bill would require that the degree's practicum and field study experience involve direct client contact.

(4) Existing law requires an applicant seeking licensure as a professional clinical counselor to possess a degree that is counseling or psychotherapy in content, and that contains specified coursework. Existing law allows remediation of a limited number of required core content coursework areas if they are missing from an applicant's degree program.

This bill would prohibit remediation of the core content area of assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals, as specified. The bill also would prohibit the remediation of the core content area of the principles of the diagnostic process and the use of diagnostic tools, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4980.74 of the Business and Professions
2 Code is amended to read:
3 4980.74. (a) This section applies to persons who apply for
4 licensure or registration on or after January 1, 2016, and who do
5 not hold a license as described in Section 4980.72.
6 (b) The board shall accept education gained ~~while residing~~
7 ~~outside of California~~ *from an out-of-state school* for purposes of
8 satisfying licensure or registration requirements if the education
9 is substantially equivalent, as defined in Section 4980.78, and the
10 applicant complies with Section 4980.76, if applicable. The
11 applicant's degree title need not be identical to that required by
12 Section 4980.36 or 4980.37.
13 (c) The board shall accept experience gained outside of
14 California for purposes of satisfying licensure or registration

1 requirements if the experience is substantially equivalent to that
2 required by this chapter.

3 SEC. 2. Section 4980.78 of the Business and Professions Code
4 is amended to read:

5 4980.78. (a) This section applies to persons who apply for
6 licensure or registration on or after January 1, 2016, and who do
7 not hold a license as described in Section 4980.72.

8 (b) For purposes of Section 4980.74, education is substantially
9 equivalent if all of the following requirements are met:

10 (1) The degree is obtained from a school, college, or university
11 accredited by an accrediting agency that is recognized by the
12 United States Department of Education and consists of, at a
13 minimum, the following:

14 (A) (i) For an applicant who obtained his or her degree within
15 the timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4980.36, the
16 degree shall contain no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter units
17 of instruction.

18 (ii) Up to 12 semester or 18 quarter units of instruction may be
19 remediated, if missing from the degree. The remediation may occur
20 while the applicant is registered as an intern.

21 (B) For an applicant who obtained his or her degree within the
22 timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4980.37, the
23 degree shall contain no less than 48 semester units or 72 quarter
24 units of instruction.

25 (C) Six semester or nine quarter units of practicum, including,
26 but not limited to, a minimum of 150 hours of face-to-face
27 ~~counseling~~, *experience counseling individuals, couples, families,*
28 *or groups*, and an additional 75 hours of either face-to-face
29 ~~counseling~~ *experience counseling individuals, couples, families,*
30 *or groups* or client-centered advocacy, or a combination of
31 face-to-face ~~counseling~~ *experience counseling individuals, couples,*
32 *families, or groups* and client-centered advocacy.

33 (D) Twelve semester or 18 quarter units in the areas of marriage,
34 family, and child counseling and marital and family systems
35 approaches to treatment, as specified in subparagraph (A) of
36 paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 4980.36.

37 (2) The applicant shall complete coursework in California law
38 and ethics as follows:

39 (A) An applicant who completed a course in law and
40 professional ethics for marriage and family therapists as specified

1 in paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 4980.81, that did not
2 contain instruction in California law and ethics, shall complete an
3 18-hour course in California law and professional ethics. The
4 content of the course shall include, but not be limited to,
5 advertising, scope of practice, scope of competence, treatment of
6 minors, confidentiality, dangerous patients, psychotherapist-patient
7 privilege, recordkeeping, patient access to records, state and federal
8 laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information, dual
9 relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online
10 therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary
11 actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical
12 standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family
13 law, therapist disclosures to patients, differences in legal and ethical
14 standards in different types of work settings, and licensing law
15 and licensing process. This coursework shall be completed prior
16 to registration as an intern.

17 (B) An applicant who has not completed a course in law and
18 professional ethics for marriage and family therapists as specified
19 in paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 4980.81 shall
20 complete this required coursework. The coursework shall contain
21 content specific to California law and ethics. This coursework shall
22 be completed prior to registration as an intern.

23 (3) The applicant completes the educational requirements
24 specified in Section 4980.81 not already completed in his or her
25 education. The coursework may be from an accredited school,
26 college, or university as specified in paragraph (1), from an
27 educational institution approved by the Bureau for Private
28 Postsecondary Education, or from a continuing education provider
29 that is acceptable to the board as defined in Section 4980.54.
30 Undergraduate courses shall not satisfy this requirement.

31 (4) The applicant completes the following coursework not
32 already completed in his or her education from an accredited
33 school, college, or university as specified in paragraph (1) from
34 an educational institution approved by the Bureau for Private
35 Postsecondary Education, or from a continuing education provider
36 that is acceptable to the board as defined in Section 4980.54.
37 Undergraduate courses shall not satisfy this requirement.

38 (A) At least three semester units, or 45 hours, of instruction
39 regarding the principles of mental health recovery-oriented care
40 and methods of service delivery in recovery-oriented practice

1 environments, including structured meetings with various
2 consumers and family members of consumers of mental health
3 services to enhance understanding of their experience of mental
4 illness, treatment, and recovery.

5 (B) At least one semester unit, or 15 hours, of instruction that
6 includes an understanding of various California cultures and the
7 social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.

8 (5) An applicant may complete any units and course content
9 requirements required under paragraphs (3) and (4) not already
10 completed in his or her education while registered as an intern,
11 unless otherwise specified.

12 (6) The applicant's degree title need not be identical to that
13 required by subdivision (b) of Section 4980.36.

14 SEC. 3. Section 4980.79 of the Business and Professions Code
15 is amended to read:

16 4980.79. (a) This section applies to persons who apply for
17 licensure or registration on or after January 1, 2016, and who hold
18 a license as described in Section 4980.72.

19 (b) For purposes of Section 4980.72, education is substantially
20 equivalent if all of the following requirements are met:

21 (1) The degree is obtained from a school, college, or university
22 accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United
23 States Department of Education and consists of, at a minimum,
24 the following:

25 (A) (i) For an applicant who obtained his or her degree within
26 the timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4980.36, the
27 degree shall contain no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter units
28 of instruction.

29 (ii) Up to 12 semester or 18 quarter units of instruction may be
30 remediated, if missing from the degree. The remediation may occur
31 while the applicant is registered as an intern.

32 (B) For an applicant who obtained his or her degree within the
33 timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4980.37, the
34 degree shall contain no less than 48 semester or 72 quarter units
35 of instruction.

36 (C) Six semester or nine quarter units of practicum, including,
37 but not limited to, a minimum of 150 hours of face-to-face
38 ~~counseling~~, *experience counseling individuals, couples, families,*
39 *or groups*, and an additional 75 hours of either face-to-face
40 ~~counseling~~ *experience counseling individuals, couples, families,*

1 *or groups* or client-centered advocacy, or a combination of
2 ~~face-to-face counseling experience~~ *counseling individuals, couples,*
3 *families, or groups* and client-centered advocacy.

4 (i) An out-of-state applicant who has been licensed for at least
5 two years in clinical practice, as verified by the board, is exempt
6 from this requirement.

7 (ii) An out-of-state applicant who has been licensed for less
8 than two years in clinical practice, as verified by the board, who
9 does not meet the practicum requirement, shall remediate it by
10 obtaining 150 hours of ~~face-to-face counseling, experience~~
11 *counseling individuals, couples, families, or groups*, and an
12 additional 75 hours of either ~~face-to-face counseling experience~~
13 *counseling individuals, couples, families, or groups* or
14 client-centered advocacy, or a combination of face-to-face
15 ~~counseling experience~~ *counseling individuals, couples, families,*
16 *or groups* and client-centered advocacy. These hours are in addition
17 to the 3,000 hours of experience required by this chapter, and shall
18 be gained while registered as an intern.

19 (D) Twelve semester or 18 quarter units in the areas of marriage,
20 family, and child counseling and marital and family systems
21 approaches to treatment, as specified in subparagraph (A) of
22 paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 4980.36.

23 (2) An applicant shall complete coursework in California law
24 and ethics as follows:

25 (A) An applicant who completed a course in law and
26 professional ethics for marriage and family therapists as specified
27 in paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 4980.81 that did not
28 include instruction in California law and ethics, shall complete an
29 18-hour course in California law and professional ethics. The
30 content of the course shall include, but not be limited to,
31 advertising, scope of practice, scope of competence, treatment of
32 minors, confidentiality, dangerous patients, psychotherapist-patient
33 privilege, recordkeeping, patient access to records, state and federal
34 laws relating to confidentiality of patient health information, dual
35 relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online
36 therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary
37 actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical
38 standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family
39 law, therapist disclosures to patients, differences in legal and ethical
40 standards in different types of work settings, and licensing law

1 and licensing process. This coursework shall be completed prior
2 to registration as an intern.

3 (B) An applicant who has not completed a course in law and
4 professional ethics for marriage and family therapists as specified
5 in paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 4980.81 shall
6 complete this required coursework. The coursework shall include
7 content specific to California law and ethics. An applicant shall
8 complete this coursework prior to registration as an intern.

9 (3) The applicant completes the educational requirements
10 specified in Section 4980.81 not already completed in his or her
11 education. The coursework may be from an accredited school,
12 college, or university as specified in paragraph (1), from an
13 educational institution approved by the Bureau for Private
14 Postsecondary Education, or from a continuing education provider
15 that is acceptable to the board as defined in Section 4980.54.
16 Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy this requirement.

17 (4) The applicant completes the following coursework not
18 already completed in his or her education from an accredited
19 school, college, or university as specified in paragraph (1) above,
20 from an educational institution approved by the Bureau for Private
21 Postsecondary Education, or from a continuing education provider
22 that is acceptable to the board as defined in Section 4980.54.
23 Undergraduate coursework shall not satisfy this requirement.

24 (A) At least three semester units, or 45 hours, of instruction
25 pertaining to the principles of mental health recovery-oriented care
26 and methods of service delivery in recovery-oriented practice
27 environments, including structured meetings with various
28 consumers and family members of consumers of mental health
29 services to enhance understanding of their experience of mental
30 illness, treatment, and recovery.

31 (B) At least one semester unit, or 15 hours, of instruction that
32 includes an understanding of various California cultures and the
33 social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.

34 (5) An applicant's degree title need not be identical to that
35 required by subdivision (b) of Section 4980.36.

36 (6) An applicant may complete any units and course content
37 requirements required under paragraphs (3) and (4) not already
38 completed in his or her education while registered as an intern,
39 unless otherwise specified.

1 SEC. 4. Section 4999.32 of the Business and Professions Code
2 is amended to read:

3 4999.32. (a) This section shall apply to applicants for
4 examination eligibility or registration who begin graduate study
5 before August 1, 2012, and complete that study on or before
6 December 31, 2018. Those applicants may alternatively qualify
7 under paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 4999.33.

8 (b) To qualify for examination eligibility or registration,
9 applicants shall possess a master's or doctoral degree that is
10 counseling or psychotherapy in content and that meets the
11 requirements of this section, obtained from an accredited or
12 approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12. For purposes
13 of this subdivision, a degree is "counseling or psychotherapy in
14 content" if it contains the supervised practicum or field study
15 experience described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) and, except
16 as provided in subdivision (d), the coursework in the core content
17 areas listed in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of paragraph (1)
18 of subdivision (c).

19 (c) The degree described in subdivision (b) shall contain not
20 less than 48 graduate semester or 72 graduate quarter units of
21 instruction, which shall, except as provided in subdivision (d),
22 include all of the following:

23 (1) The equivalent of at least three semester units or four and
24 one-half quarter units of graduate study in each of the following
25 core content areas:

26 (A) Counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques,
27 including the counseling process in a multicultural society, an
28 orientation to wellness and prevention, counseling theories to assist
29 in selection of appropriate counseling interventions, models of
30 counseling consistent with current professional research and
31 practice, development of a personal model of counseling, and
32 multidisciplinary responses to crises, emergencies, and disasters.

33 (B) Human growth and development across the lifespan,
34 including normal and abnormal behavior and an understanding of
35 developmental crises, disability, psychopathology, and situational
36 and environmental factors that affect both normal and abnormal
37 behavior.

38 (C) Career development theories and techniques, including
39 career development decisionmaking models and interrelationships

1 among and between work, family, and other life roles and factors,
2 including the role of multicultural issues in career development.

3 (D) Group counseling theories and techniques, including
4 principles of group dynamics, group process components,
5 developmental stage theories, therapeutic factors of group work,
6 group leadership styles and approaches, pertinent research and
7 literature, group counseling methods, and evaluation of
8 effectiveness.

9 (E) Assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals, including
10 basic concepts of standardized and nonstandardized testing and
11 other assessment techniques, norm-referenced and
12 criterion-referenced assessment, statistical concepts, social and
13 cultural factors related to assessment and evaluation of individuals
14 and groups, and ethical strategies for selecting, administering, and
15 interpreting assessment instruments and techniques in counseling.

16 (F) Multicultural counseling theories and techniques, including
17 counselors' roles in developing cultural self-awareness, identity
18 development, promoting cultural social justice, individual and
19 community strategies for working with and advocating for diverse
20 populations, and counselors' roles in eliminating biases and
21 prejudices, and processes of intentional and unintentional
22 oppression and discrimination.

23 (G) Principles of the diagnostic process, including differential
24 diagnosis, and the use of current diagnostic tools, such as the
25 current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, the impact
26 of co-occurring substance use disorders or medical psychological
27 disorders, established diagnostic criteria for mental or emotional
28 disorders, and the treatment modalities and placement criteria
29 within the continuum of care.

30 (H) Research and evaluation, including studies that provide an
31 understanding of research methods, statistical analysis, the use of
32 research to inform evidence-based practice, the importance of
33 research in advancing the profession of counseling, and statistical
34 methods used in conducting research, needs assessment, and
35 program evaluation.

36 (I) Professional orientation, ethics, and law in counseling,
37 including professional ethical standards and legal considerations,
38 licensing law and process, regulatory laws that delineate the
39 profession's scope of practice, counselor-client privilege,
40 confidentiality, the client dangerous to self or others, treatment of

1 minors with or without parental consent, relationship between
2 practitioner's sense of self and human values, functions and
3 relationships with other human service providers, strategies for
4 collaboration, and advocacy processes needed to address
5 institutional and social barriers that impede access, equity, and
6 success for clients.

7 (2) In addition to the course requirements described in paragraph
8 (1), a minimum of 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of advanced
9 coursework to develop knowledge of specific treatment issues,
10 special populations, application of counseling constructs,
11 assessment and treatment planning, clinical interventions,
12 therapeutic relationships, psychopathology, or other clinical topics.

13 (3) Not less than six semester units or nine quarter units of
14 supervised practicum or field study ~~experience, or the equivalent,~~
15 *experience that involves direct client contact* in a clinical setting
16 that provides a range of professional clinical counseling experience,
17 including the following:

18 (A) Applied psychotherapeutic techniques.

19 (B) Assessment.

20 (C) Diagnosis.

21 (D) Prognosis.

22 (E) Treatment.

23 (F) Issues of development, adjustment, and maladjustment.

24 (G) Health and wellness promotion.

25 (H) Other recognized counseling interventions.

26 (I) A minimum of 150 hours of face-to-face supervised clinical
27 experience counseling individuals, families, or groups.

28 (d) (1) (A) An applicant whose degree is deficient in no more
29 than two of the required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A)
30 to (I), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) may satisfy
31 those deficiencies by successfully completing post-master's or
32 postdoctoral degree coursework at an accredited or approved
33 institution, as defined in Section 4999.12.

34 (B) *Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), no applicant shall be*
35 *deficient in the required areas of study specified in subparagraphs*
36 *(E) or (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c).*

37 (2) Coursework taken to meet deficiencies in the required areas
38 of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of paragraph
39 (1) of subdivision (c) shall be the equivalent of three semester units
40 or four and one-half quarter units of study.

1 (3) The board shall make the final determination as to whether
2 a degree meets all requirements, including, but not limited to,
3 course requirements, regardless of accreditation.

4 (e) In addition to the degree described in this section, or as part
5 of that degree, an applicant shall complete the following
6 coursework or training prior to registration as an intern:

7 (1) A minimum of 15 contact hours of instruction in alcoholism
8 and other chemical substance abuse dependency, as specified by
9 regulation.

10 (2) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework
11 in human sexuality as specified in Section 25, and any regulations
12 promulgated thereunder.

13 (3) A two semester unit or three quarter unit survey course in
14 psychopharmacology.

15 (4) A minimum of 15 contact hours of instruction in spousal or
16 partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies,
17 including knowledge of community resources, cultural factors,
18 and same gender abuse dynamics.

19 (5) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework
20 in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28
21 and any regulations adopted thereunder.

22 (6) A minimum of 18 contact hours of instruction in California
23 law and professional ethics for professional clinical counselors
24 that includes, but is not limited to, instruction in advertising, scope
25 of practice, scope of competence, treatment of minors,
26 confidentiality, dangerous clients, psychotherapist-client privilege,
27 recordkeeping, client access to records, dual relationships, child
28 abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online therapy, insurance
29 reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary actions and
30 unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical standards,
31 termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law,
32 therapist disclosures to clients, and state and federal laws related
33 to confidentiality of patient health information. When coursework
34 in a master's or doctoral degree program is acquired to satisfy this
35 requirement, it shall be considered as part of the 48 semester unit
36 or 72 quarter unit requirement in subdivision (c).

37 (7) A minimum of 10 contact hours of instruction in aging and
38 long-term care, which may include, but is not limited to, the
39 biological, social, and psychological aspects of aging. On and after
40 January 1, 2012, this coursework shall include instruction on the

1 assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder
2 and dependent adult abuse and neglect.

3 (8) A minimum of 15 contact hours of instruction in crisis or
4 trauma counseling, including multidisciplinary responses to crises,
5 emergencies, or disasters, and brief, intermediate, and long-term
6 approaches.

7 (f) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2019,
8 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute that
9 is enacted before January 1, 2019, deletes or extends that date.

10 SEC. 5. Section 4999.33 of the Business and Professions Code
11 is amended to read:

12 4999.33. (a) This section shall apply to the following:

13 (1) Applicants for examination eligibility or registration who
14 begin graduate study before August 1, 2012, and do not complete
15 that study on or before December 31, 2018.

16 (2) Applicants for examination eligibility or registration who
17 begin graduate study before August 1, 2012, and who graduate
18 from a degree program that meets the requirements of this section.

19 (3) Applicants for examination eligibility or registration who
20 begin graduate study on or after August 1, 2012.

21 (b) To qualify for examination eligibility or registration,
22 applicants shall possess a master's or doctoral degree that is
23 counseling or psychotherapy in content and that meets the
24 requirements of this section, obtained from an accredited or
25 approved institution, as defined in Section 4999.12. For purposes
26 of this subdivision, a degree is "counseling or psychotherapy in
27 content" if it contains the supervised practicum or field study
28 experience described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) and, except
29 as provided in subdivision (f), the coursework in the core content
30 areas listed in subparagraphs (A) to (M), inclusive, of paragraph
31 (1) of subdivision (c).

32 (c) The degree described in subdivision (b) shall contain not
33 less than 60 graduate semester or 90 graduate quarter units of
34 instruction, which shall, except as provided in subdivision (f),
35 include all of the following:

36 (1) The equivalent of at least three semester units or four and
37 one-half quarter units of graduate study in all of the following core
38 content areas:

39 (A) Counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and techniques,
40 including the counseling process in a multicultural society, an

1 orientation to wellness and prevention, counseling theories to assist
2 in selection of appropriate counseling interventions, models of
3 counseling consistent with current professional research and
4 practice, development of a personal model of counseling, and
5 multidisciplinary responses to crises, emergencies, and disasters.

6 (B) Human growth and development across the lifespan,
7 including normal and abnormal behavior and an understanding of
8 developmental crises, disability, psychopathology, and situational
9 and environmental factors that affect both normal and abnormal
10 behavior.

11 (C) Career development theories and techniques, including
12 career development decisionmaking models and interrelationships
13 among and between work, family, and other life roles and factors,
14 including the role of multicultural issues in career development.

15 (D) Group counseling theories and techniques, including
16 principles of group dynamics, group process components, group
17 developmental stage theories, therapeutic factors of group work,
18 group leadership styles and approaches, pertinent research and
19 literature, group counseling methods, and evaluation of
20 effectiveness.

21 (E) Assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals, including
22 basic concepts of standardized and nonstandardized testing and
23 other assessment techniques, norm-referenced and
24 criterion-referenced assessment, statistical concepts, social and
25 cultural factors related to assessment and evaluation of individuals
26 and groups, and ethical strategies for selecting, administering, and
27 interpreting assessment instruments and techniques in counseling.

28 (F) Multicultural counseling theories and techniques, including
29 counselors' roles in developing cultural self-awareness, identity
30 development, promoting cultural social justice, individual and
31 community strategies for working with and advocating for diverse
32 populations, and counselors' roles in eliminating biases and
33 prejudices, and processes of intentional and unintentional
34 oppression and discrimination.

35 (G) Principles of the diagnostic process, including differential
36 diagnosis, and the use of current diagnostic tools, such as the
37 current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, the impact
38 of co-occurring substance use disorders or medical psychological
39 disorders, established diagnostic criteria for mental or emotional

1 disorders, and the treatment modalities and placement criteria
2 within the continuum of care.

3 (H) Research and evaluation, including studies that provide an
4 understanding of research methods, statistical analysis, the use of
5 research to inform evidence-based practice, the importance of
6 research in advancing the profession of counseling, and statistical
7 methods used in conducting research, needs assessment, and
8 program evaluation.

9 (I) Professional orientation, ethics, and law in counseling,
10 including California law and professional ethics for professional
11 clinical counselors, professional ethical standards and legal
12 considerations, licensing law and process, regulatory laws that
13 delineate the profession's scope of practice, counselor-client
14 privilege, confidentiality, the client dangerous to self or others,
15 treatment of minors with or without parental consent, relationship
16 between practitioner's sense of self and human values, functions
17 and relationships with other human service providers, strategies
18 for collaboration, and advocacy processes needed to address
19 institutional and social barriers that impede access, equity, and
20 success for clients.

21 (J) Psychopharmacology, including the biological bases of
22 behavior, basic classifications, indications, and contraindications
23 of commonly prescribed psychopharmacological medications so
24 that appropriate referrals can be made for medication evaluations
25 and so that the side effects of those medications can be identified.

26 (K) Addictions counseling, including substance abuse,
27 co-occurring disorders, and addiction, major approaches to
28 identification, evaluation, treatment, and prevention of substance
29 abuse and addiction, legal and medical aspects of substance abuse,
30 populations at risk, the role of support persons, support systems,
31 and community resources.

32 (L) Crisis or trauma counseling, including crisis theory;
33 multidisciplinary responses to crises, emergencies, or disasters;
34 cognitive, affective, behavioral, and neurological effects associated
35 with trauma; brief, intermediate, and long-term approaches; and
36 assessment strategies for clients in crisis and principles of
37 intervention for individuals with mental or emotional disorders
38 during times of crisis, emergency, or disaster.

39 (M) Advanced counseling and psychotherapeutic theories and
40 techniques, including the application of counseling constructs,

1 assessment and treatment planning, clinical interventions,
2 therapeutic relationships, psychopathology, or other clinical topics.

3 (2) In addition to the course requirements described in paragraph
4 (1), 15 semester units or 22.5 quarter units of advanced coursework
5 to develop knowledge of specific treatment issues or special
6 populations.

7 (3) Not less than six semester units or nine quarter units of
8 supervised practicum or field study ~~experience, or the equivalent,~~
9 *experience that involves direct client contact* in a clinical setting
10 that provides a range of professional clinical counseling experience,
11 including the following:

12 (A) Applied psychotherapeutic techniques.

13 (B) Assessment.

14 (C) Diagnosis.

15 (D) Prognosis.

16 (E) Treatment.

17 (F) Issues of development, adjustment, and maladjustment.

18 (G) Health and wellness promotion.

19 (H) Professional writing including documentation of services,
20 treatment plans, and progress notes.

21 (I) How to find and use resources.

22 (J) Other recognized counseling interventions.

23 (K) A minimum of 280 hours of face-to-face supervised clinical
24 experience counseling individuals, families, or groups.

25 (d) The 60 graduate semester units or 90 graduate quarter units
26 of instruction required pursuant to subdivision (c) shall, in addition
27 to meeting the requirements of subdivision (c), include instruction
28 in all of the following:

29 (1) The understanding of human behavior within the social
30 context of socioeconomic status and other contextual issues
31 affecting social position.

32 (2) The understanding of human behavior within the social
33 context of a representative variety of the cultures found within
34 California.

35 (3) Cultural competency and sensitivity, including a familiarity
36 with the racial, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic backgrounds of
37 persons living in California.

38 (4) An understanding of the effects of socioeconomic status on
39 treatment and available resources.

1 (5) Multicultural development and cross-cultural interaction,
2 including experiences of race, ethnicity, class, spirituality, sexual
3 orientation, gender, and disability and their incorporation into the
4 psychotherapeutic process.

5 (6) Case management, systems of care for the severely mentally
6 ill, public and private services for the severely mentally ill,
7 community resources for victims of abuse, disaster and trauma
8 response, advocacy for the severely mentally ill, and collaborative
9 treatment. The instruction required in this paragraph may be
10 provided either in credit level coursework or through extension
11 programs offered by the degree-granting institution.

12 (7) Human sexuality, including the study of the physiological,
13 psychological, and social cultural variables associated with sexual
14 behavior, gender identity, and the assessment and treatment of
15 psychosexual dysfunction.

16 (8) Spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, intervention
17 strategies, and same gender abuse dynamics.

18 (9) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework
19 in child abuse assessment and reporting, as specified in Section
20 28, and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

21 (10) Aging and long-term care, including biological, social,
22 cognitive, and psychological aspects of aging. This coursework
23 shall include instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as
24 well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and
25 neglect.

26 (e) A degree program that qualifies for licensure under this
27 section shall do all of the following:

28 (1) Integrate the principles of mental health recovery-oriented
29 care and methods of service delivery in recovery-oriented practice
30 environments.

31 (2) Integrate an understanding of various cultures and the social
32 and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.

33 (3) Provide the opportunity for students to meet with various
34 consumers and family members of consumers of mental health
35 services to enhance understanding of their experience of mental
36 illness, treatment, and recovery.

37 (f) (1) (A) An applicant whose degree is deficient in no more
38 than three of the required areas of study listed in subparagraphs
39 (A) to (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) may
40 satisfy those deficiencies by successfully completing post-master's

1 or postdoctoral degree coursework at an accredited or approved
2 institution, as defined in Section 4999.12.

3 *(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), no applicant shall be*
4 *deficient in the required areas of study specified in subparagraphs*
5 *(E) or (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c).*

6 (2) Coursework taken to meet deficiencies in the required areas
7 of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to (M), inclusive, of paragraph
8 (1) of subdivision (c) shall be the equivalent of three semester units
9 or four and one-half quarter units of study.

10 (3) The board shall make the final determination as to whether
11 a degree meets all requirements, including, but not limited to,
12 course requirements, regardless of accreditation.

13 SEC. 6. Section 4999.61 of the Business and Professions Code
14 is amended to read:

15 4999.61. (a) This section applies to persons who apply for
16 examination eligibility or registration on or after January 1, 2016,
17 and who do not hold a license as described in Section 4999.60.

18 (b) The board shall accept education gained ~~while residing~~
19 ~~outside of California~~ *from an out-of-state school* for purposes of
20 satisfying licensure or registration requirements if the education
21 is substantially equivalent, as defined in Section 4999.62, and the
22 applicant complies with subdivision (b) of Section 4999.40, if
23 applicable.

24 (c) The board shall accept experience gained outside of
25 California for purposes of satisfying licensure or registration
26 requirements if the experience is substantially equivalent to that
27 required by this chapter.

28 SEC. 7. Section 4999.62 of the Business and Professions Code
29 is amended to read:

30 4999.62. (a) This section applies to persons who apply for
31 examination eligibility or registration on or after January 1, 2016,
32 and who do not hold a license as described in Section 4999.60.

33 (b) For purposes of Section 4999.61, education is substantially
34 equivalent if all of the following requirements are met:

35 (1) The degree is obtained from an accredited or approved
36 institution, as defined in Section 4999.12, and consists of, at a
37 minimum, the following:

38 (A) (i) For an applicant who obtained his or her degree within
39 the timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4999.33 the

1 degree shall contain no less than 60 graduate semester or 90
2 graduate quarter units of instruction.

3 (ii) Up to 12 semester or 18 quarter units of instruction may be
4 remediated, if missing from the degree. The remediation may occur
5 while the applicant is registered as an intern.

6 (B) For an applicant who obtained his or her degree within the
7 timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4999.32 the
8 degree shall contain no less than 48 graduate semester or 72
9 graduate quarter units of instruction.

10 (C) Six semester or nine quarter units of practicum, including,
11 but not limited to, a minimum of 280 hours of face-to-face
12 ~~counseling~~; *supervised clinical experience counseling individuals,*
13 *families, or groups.*

14 (D) The required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to
15 (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section
16 4999.33.

17 (i) (I) An applicant whose degree is deficient in no more than
18 six of the required areas of study listed in subparagraphs (A) to
19 (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section
20 4999.33 may satisfy those deficiencies by successfully completing
21 graduate level coursework at an accredited or approved institution,
22 as defined in Section 4999.12. Coursework taken to meet ~~those~~
23 *any* deficiencies shall be the equivalent of three semester units or
24 four and one-half quarter units of study.

25 (II) *Notwithstanding subclause (I), no applicant shall be*
26 *deficient in the required areas of study specified in subparagraphs*
27 *(E) or (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33.*

28 (ii) An applicant who completed a course in professional
29 orientation, ethics, and law in counseling as required by
30 subparagraph (I) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section
31 4999.33 that did not contain instruction in California law and ethics
32 shall complete an 18-hour course in California law and professional
33 ethics that includes, but is not limited to, instruction in advertising,
34 scope of practice, scope of competence, treatment of minors,
35 confidentiality, dangerous clients, psychotherapist-client privilege,
36 recordkeeping, client access to records, state and federal laws
37 relating to confidentiality of patient health information, dual
38 relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online
39 therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary
40 actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical

standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law, and therapist disclosures to clients. An applicant shall complete this coursework prior to registration as an intern.

(iii) An applicant who has not completed a course in professional orientation, ethics, and law in counseling as required by subparagraph (I) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33 shall complete this required coursework, including content in California law and ethics. An applicant shall complete this coursework prior to registration as an intern.

(2) The applicant completes any units required by subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33 not already completed in his or her education as follows:

(A) At least 15 semester units or 22.5 quarter units of advanced coursework to develop knowledge of specific treatment issues or special populations. This coursework is in addition to the course requirements described in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1).

(B) Coursework shall be from an accredited or approved school, college, or university as defined in Section 4999.12.

(3) (A) The applicant completes the following coursework not already completed in his or her education:

(i) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training in human sexuality, as specified in Section 25 and any regulations promulgated thereunder, including the study of the physiological, psychological, and social cultural variables associated with sexual behavior, gender identity, and the assessment and treatment of psychosexual dysfunction.

(ii) A minimum of 15 contact hours of instruction in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, intervention strategies, and same-gender abuse dynamics.

(iii) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28 and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

(iv) A minimum of 10 contact hours of instruction in aging and long-term care, including biological, social, cognitive, and psychological aspects of aging. This coursework shall include instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.

(B) This coursework may be from an accredited or approved school, college, or university as defined in Section 4999.12, or from a continuing education provider that is acceptable to the board

1 as defined in Section 4999.76. Undergraduate coursework shall
2 not satisfy this requirement.

3 (4) The applicant completes the following coursework not
4 already completed in his or her education from an accredited or
5 approved school, college, or university as defined in Section
6 4999.12, or from a continuing education provider that is acceptable
7 to the board as defined in Section 4999.76. Undergraduate
8 coursework shall not satisfy this requirement.

9 (A) At least three semester units, or 45 hours, of instruction
10 regarding the principles of mental health recovery-oriented care
11 and methods of service delivery in recovery-oriented practice
12 environments, including structured meetings with various
13 consumers and family members of consumers of mental health
14 services to enhance understanding of their experiences of mental
15 illness, treatment, and recovery.

16 (B) At least one semester unit, or 15 hours, of instruction that
17 includes an understanding of various California cultures and the
18 social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.

19 (5) An applicant may complete any units and course content
20 requirements required under paragraphs (2), (3), or (4) not already
21 completed in his or her education while registered with the board
22 as an intern.

23 SEC. 8. Section 4999.63 of the Business and Professions Code
24 is amended to read:

25 4999.63. (a) This section applies to persons who apply for
26 examination eligibility or registration on or after January 1, 2016,
27 and who hold a license as described in Section 4999.60.

28 (b) For purposes of Section 4999.60, education is substantially
29 equivalent if all of the following requirements are met:

30 (1) The degree is obtained from an accredited or approved
31 institution, as defined in Section 4999.12, and consists of the
32 following:

33 (A) (i) For an applicant who obtained his or her degree within
34 the timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4999.33 the
35 degree shall contain no less than 60 graduate semester or 90
36 graduate quarter units of instruction.

37 (ii) Up to 12 semester or 18 quarter units of instruction may be
38 remediated, if missing from the degree. The remediation may occur
39 while the applicant is registered as an intern.

1 (B) For an applicant who obtained his or her degree within the
2 timeline prescribed by subdivision (a) of Section 4999.32 the
3 degree shall contain no less than 48 graduate semester or 72
4 graduate quarter units of instruction.

5 (C) Six semester or nine quarter units of practicum, including,
6 but not limited to, a minimum of 280 hours of face-to-face
7 ~~counseling~~, *supervised clinical experience counseling individuals,*
8 *families, or groups.*

9 (i) An applicant who has been licensed for at least two years in
10 clinical practice, as verified by the board, is exempt from this
11 requirement.

12 (ii) An out-of-state applicant who has been licensed for less
13 than two years in clinical practice, as verified by the board, who
14 does not meet the practicum requirement, shall remediate the
15 requirement by demonstrating completion of a total of 280 hours
16 of ~~face-to-face counseling~~, *face-to-face supervised clinical*
17 *experience*, as specified in subparagraph (K) of paragraph (3) of
18 subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33. Any postdegree hours gained
19 to meet this requirement are in addition to the 3,000 hours of
20 experience required by this chapter, and shall be gained while the
21 applicant is registered with the board as an intern.

22 (D) The required areas of study specified in subparagraphs (A)
23 to (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section
24 4999.33.

25 (i) *(I)* An applicant whose degree is deficient in no more than
26 six of the required areas of study specified in subparagraphs (A)
27 to (M), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of *Section*
28 *4999.33* may satisfy those deficiencies by successfully completing
29 graduate level coursework at an accredited or approved institution,
30 as defined in Section 4999.12. Coursework taken to meet ~~those~~
31 *any* deficiencies shall be the equivalent of three semester units or
32 four and one-half quarter units of study.

33 *(II) Notwithstanding subclause (I), no applicant shall be*
34 *deficient in the required areas of study specified in subparagraphs*
35 *(E) or (G) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 4999.33.*

36 (ii) An applicant who completed a course in professional
37 orientation, ethics, and law in counseling as required by
38 subparagraph (I) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section
39 4999.33 that did not contain instruction in California law and ethics
40 shall complete an 18-hour course in California law and professional

1 ethics that includes, but is not limited to, instruction in advertising,
2 scope of practice, scope of competence, treatment of minors,
3 confidentiality, dangerous clients, psychotherapist-client privilege,
4 recordkeeping, client access to records, state and federal laws
5 relating to confidentiality of patient health information, dual
6 relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online
7 therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary
8 actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical
9 standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family
10 law, and therapist disclosures to clients. An applicant shall
11 complete this coursework prior to registration as an intern.

12 (iii) An applicant who has not completed a course in professional
13 orientation, ethics, and law in counseling as required by
14 subparagraph (I) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section
15 4999.33 shall complete this required coursework, including content
16 in California law and ethics. An applicant shall complete this
17 coursework prior to registration as an intern.

18 (2) The applicant completes any units required under subdivision
19 (c) of Section 4999.33 not already completed in his or her education
20 as follows:

21 (A) At least 15 semester units or 22.5 quarter units of advanced
22 coursework to develop knowledge of specific treatment issues or
23 special populations. This coursework is in addition to the course
24 requirements described in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1).

25 (B) Coursework shall be from an accredited or approved school,
26 college, or university as defined in Section 4999.12.

27 (3) The applicant completes the following coursework not
28 already completed in his or her education:

29 (A) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training in human
30 sexuality, as specified in Section 25 and any regulations
31 promulgated thereunder, including the study of the physiological,
32 psychological, and social cultural variables associated with sexual
33 behavior, gender identity, and the assessment and treatment of
34 psychosexual dysfunction.

35 (B) A minimum of 15 contact hours of instruction in spousal
36 or partner abuse assessment, detection, intervention strategies, and
37 same-gender abuse dynamics.

38 (C) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework
39 in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28
40 and any regulations promulgated under that section.

1 (D) A minimum of 10 contact hours of instruction in aging and
2 long-term care, including biological, social, cognitive, and
3 psychological aspects of aging. This coursework shall include
4 instruction on the assessment and reporting of, as well as treatment
5 related to, elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect.

6 (E) This coursework may be from an accredited or approved
7 school, college, or university as defined in Section 4999.12, or
8 from a continuing education provider that is acceptable to the board
9 as defined in Section 4999.76. Undergraduate coursework shall
10 not satisfy this requirement.

11 (4) The applicant completes the following coursework not
12 already completed in his or her education from an accredited or
13 approved school, college, or university as defined in Section
14 4999.12, or from a continuing education provider that is acceptable
15 to the board as defined in Section 4999.76. Undergraduate
16 coursework shall not satisfy this requirement.

17 (A) At least three semester units or 45 hours of instruction
18 regarding the principles of mental health recovery-oriented care
19 and methods of service delivery in recovery-oriented practice
20 environments, including structured meetings with various
21 consumers and family members of consumers of mental health
22 services to enhance understanding of their experience of mental
23 illness, treatment, and recovery.

24 (B) At least one semester unit or 15 hours of instruction that
25 includes an understanding of various California cultures and the
26 social and psychological implications of socioeconomic position.

27 (5) An applicant may complete any units and course content
28 requirements required by subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1) or
29 paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) not already completed in his or her
30 education while registered with the board as an intern, unless
31 otherwise specified.